

small the waist, how fragrant the
 presence : to each
 the silly one whom he loves seems a
 jewel. If you
 give drugs and philtres will women take
 to you? If
 you would that women should take to
 you or the
 world should take to you use that great
 drug gold.

(iii) **Proverbs**

The proverbs of a people embody their
 wisdom
 and indicate their culture and outlook on
 life. What
 the people believe to be constant truth is
 given form
 in some context in pithy and expressive
 word and
 phrase which strike the popular mind as
 apt and
 receive the stamp of approval. The word
 and phrase
 then become coin of the realm and run
 from tongue
 to tongue.

Kannada has a large number of
 proverbs that
 show an alert mind, a wide and tolerant
 outlook on
 life and a keen sense of humour. Great
 knowledge of
 the world and considerable shrewdness in
 affairs are
 embodied in them. Peculiarities of castes,
 peculiarities
 of individuals are turned off in some fine
 phrase. Even
 when the description is not accurate it will
 stand well
 as caricature. There is pointed satire in
 some cases
 and some are stories in little. All the
 proverbs show
 a sense of aptness in expression.

As expression of worldly wisdom some
 proverbs
 may be cited. Economy or cupidity in the
 wrong
 place is criticised by saying " Honour lost
 over an
 arecanut cannot be got back for an
 elephant." Idleness
 is censured by saying " To him who sits

and eats a
 pot of gold will not last/" Activity, on the
 other hand,
 is praised: "Mud on hand means curds in
 the mouth/"
^{ft} Man is ruined by sitting, woman by
 wandering